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Mr. Bond also presented the following

OBSERVATIONS ON LASSELL'S SATELLITE OF NEPTUNE,

1847, *Made at Cambridge Observatory.*

Oct. 25th, 7^h. 45^m. Satellite is south, preceding the primary, pos. 40° , dist. $15''.4$.

“ 27th, 7^h. 30^m. Satellite is north, following the primary, pos. $61^{\circ} 30'$, dist. $13''.7$;
mean of six observations, using the powers 300 and 1000.

“ 28th, 7^h. 45^m. Satellite is north, following the primary, pos. $43^{\circ} 15'$, dist. $15''.0$,
being the mean of nine determinations; powers 400 and 1000.

Nov. 2d, 7^h. 15^m. Satellite is north, following, pos. $55^{\circ} 50'$, dist. $14''.0$. Powers 400
and 1000.

“The above were taken with the illuminated wires of the micrometer of the great refractor. The angles of position are reckoned from the parallel of declination.”

The President gave some account of the mountain ranges of North America, illustrated by Bauerkeller's embossed map; also of the different passes through which a canal has been thought practicable from the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean, and of the difficulties which at present render improbable the execution of any such work.

Dr. Bigelow gave also an account of the past and present nomenclature of Pharmacology in Great Britain and in this country, by which it appeared that the practice of using a single word, whenever it is practicable, for the name of each substance derived from the vegetable kingdom, was first introduced in the American Pharmacopœia of 1820,—and that this simple form of nomenclature has been since adopted, with few changes, by the Royal Colleges of Physicians in London and Edinburgh, instead of the more complex names formerly employed by them.

Three hundredth Meeting.

November 10, 1847. — QUARTERLY MEETING.

The PRESIDENT in the chair.

Captain William H. Smyth, R. N., President of the Royal Astronomical Society, London, was chosen a Foreign Honorary Member of the Academy.

Professor Edward H. Courtenay, of the University of Virginia, Captain W. H. Swift, U. S. Engineers, and Professor C. M. Mitchell of Cincinnati Observatory, Ohio, were elected Corresponding Members.

Hon. Abbott Lawrence, Rev. George Putnam, D. D., and Charles G. Loring, Esq., were elected Fellows.

Dr. M. Wyman reported that the Committee on Ventilation were engaged in experiments for testing the relative efficiency of different kinds of ventilating apparatus in use, by measuring the velocity of the current of air made by their means to rise through tubes arranged for the purpose; this velocity being measured directly, by introducing chlorine gas into the base of the current, and noting the discoloration of paper wet with a solution of hydriodate of potash in starch suspended in the upper part of the tube.

Professor Peirce gave some account of his computation of the mass of Neptune from the motions of its satellite.

Three Hundred and first Meeting.

December 7, 1847. — MONTHLY MEETING.

The PRESIDENT in the chair.

The committee to whom was referred the "Programme for the Organization of the Smithsonian Institution," submitted to the Academy by the Secretary, Professor Henry, with his letter of the 30th September, made the following Report.

"Professor Henry is understood to be desirous of ascertaining the opinions of the scientific bodies of the country, on the subject of the proposed organization of the Smithsonian Institution; and the free expression of their views is wished by him.

"The interesting nature and high importance of this foundation, and the novel and peculiar circumstances attending its establishment, make it highly expedient, in the opinion of the committee, that every step taken in its organization should be deliberately considered. They